

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06339 021245Z

44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIEP-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /120 W

----- 107589

R 021124Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5582

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 6339

E.;9. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PK

SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TAKES UP AHMADIYA QUESTION

REF:ISLAMABAD R6031

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES AGREED JUNE 30 TO TAKE UP AHMADIYA CONTROVERSY IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN SECRET PROCEEDINGS. THIS APPEARS TO HAVE PLACATED OPPOSITION LEADERS AND RIGHT-WING CLERGY FOR THE MOMENT BUT THEIR CONTINUED PRESSURE BACKED BY CONSIDERABLE POPULAR SUPPORT MAY FORCE PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO TO ACCEPT BILWPDECLARING AHMADIYAS NON-MUSLIMS AND PROMPT TRASNFER AND RETIREMENT OF SELECTED AHMADIYAS NOW SERVING IN THE MORE HIGHLY VISIBLE GOVERNMENT POSTS. END SUMMARY.

1. LVTH PASSAGE OF BUDGET AND RETURN OF BHUTTO FROM DACCA, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MET JUNE 30 TO GRAPPLE WITH PROBLEM OF AHMADIYA MINORITY SECT THAT HAS BEEN DISTURB-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 06339 021245Z

ING COUNTRY SINCE RABWAH INCIDENT (REFTEL). GOP HAS BEEN

EMBARRASSED AND WORRIED OVER THIS SECTARIAN OUTBURST, WHILE OPPOSITION LEADERS AND RIGHT-WING CLERGY HAVE BEEN EXPLOITING IT TO THE HILT ALOCXT GOVERNMENT.

2. AT JUNE 30 SESSION GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES AGREED ON GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL TO ADJOURN ASSEMBLY UNTIL JULY 15, TURNING HOUSE INTO A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WITH SPEAKER AS CHAIRMAN. COMMITTEE EMPOWERED TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF "STATUS IN ISLAM OF PERSONS WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE FINALITY OF THE PROPHETHOOD OF MOHAMMED", TO CONSIDER SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS, AND TO HEAR WITNESSES, PERUSE DOCUMENTS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS. COMMITTEE MEETINGS WOULD BE IN CAMERA WITH OFFICIAL EXCERPTS OF PROCEEDINGS RELEASED DAILY AND PENALTIES FOR MEMBERS LEAKING ANY FURTHER INFO. LAW MINISTER PIRZADA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS ASSEMBLY ACTION WOULD END POPULAR AGITATION OVER AHMADIYA ISSUE AND WOULD REFUTE ACCUSATIONS THAT BHUTTO GOVERNMENT WAS SEEKING WAYS TO COMMIT CONTROVERSY TO COLD STORAGE.

3. ALTHOUGH SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT MOVE, OPPOSITION IN UNUSUAL DISPLAY OF UNITY INSISTED ON PROPOSING ANOTHER MOTION DECLARING FOLLOWERS OF AHMADIYA FOUNDER MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD TO BE "OUTSIDE THE PALE OF ISGVF", TREACHEROUS AND IMPERIALIST TOOLS SUBVERSIVE OF ISLAM, AND CALLING FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND LEGISLATION DECLARING THEM NON-MUSLIM MINORITY WICGYN HOWEVSC, APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS FOR THEIR "LEGITIMATE RIG XS AND INTERESTS". THIS MOTION WAS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE.

4. EARLY INDICATIONS ARE THAT GOVERNEMENT'S MOVE IN TURNING ISSUE OVER TO ASSEMBLY IN THIS MANNER HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AS SUFFICIENT BY BULK OF ANTI-AHMADIYA LEADERS AND THAT THEY WILL GIVE REGIME FEW WEEKS OF GRACE BEFORE WHIPPING UP FURTHER MAJOR AGITATION. THIS MAY NOT PREVENT ADDITIONAL MINOR OUTBREDS BUT HOPEFULLY WILL DISCOURAGE ANY SERIOUS DISORDERS.

5. COMMENT: SEEMS CLEAR THAT BHUTTO REGIME HAD HOPED TO RIDE OUT THE STORM OF SECTARIAM CONTROVERSY WITTTT TAKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 06339 021245Z

FORMAL ACTION AGAINST AHMADIYAS. HOWEVER, CONTINUING ANTI-AHMADIYA AGITATION AND DEMONSTRATIONS LED BY RELIGIOUS LEADERS, STUDENTS AND POLITICIANS HAVE SUCCEDED IN STIRRING UP POPULAR EMOTIONS TO POINT WHERE THIS NO LONGER SEEMS POSSIBLE. THUS BHUTTO MAY HAVE TO BOW TO PRESSURE AND PERMIT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO DECLARE AHMADIYAS NON-MUSLIMS.

6. THIS MIGHT WELL BE FOLLOWED BY FURTHER PRESSURE FROM TRIUMPHANT ANTI-AHMADIYAS TO PURGE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS WHO ARE BY BELIEF OR FAMILY TIES AHMADIYAS, WHICH WOULD CREATE ADDITIONAL DIFFICULTIES FOR REGIME. LIKELY THAT BHUTTO WOULD TRY TO MEET IT BY SELECTIVE TRANSFERS AND RETIREMENTS OF AHMADIYAS IN HIGHLY VISIBLE AND GOVERNMENT POSTS, PROCESS WHICH SOME SAY HAS ALREADY STARTED.
BYROADE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL SITUATION, RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION, AHMADIYA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ISLAMA06339
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740175-0497
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740781/aaaacrtc.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SLAMABAD R6031
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TAKES UP AHMADIYA QUESTION
TAGS: PINS, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005